

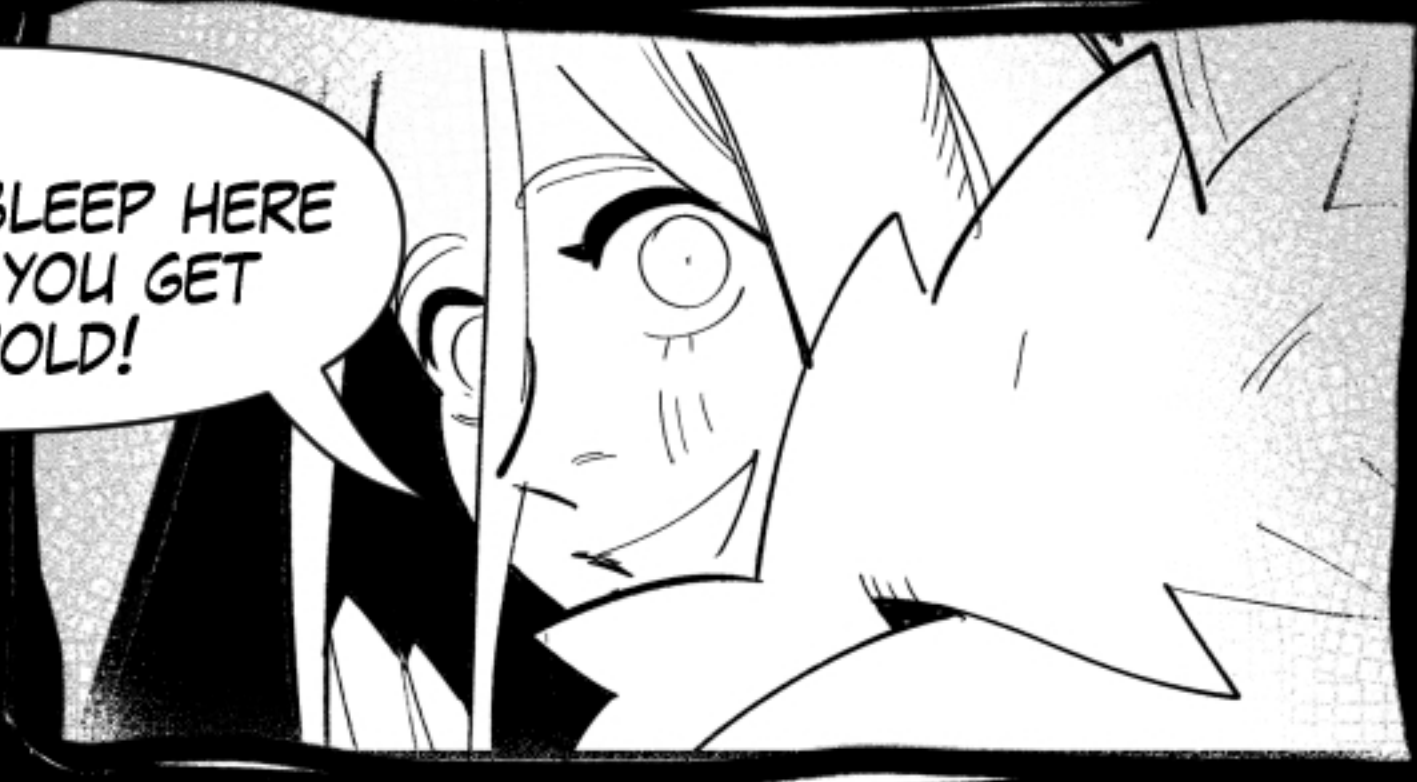
BOND BY FIRE

Chapter 6: Secret messages



Caterina P Droguett





COME AND SLEEP HERE
LATER, IF YOU GET
TOO COLD!

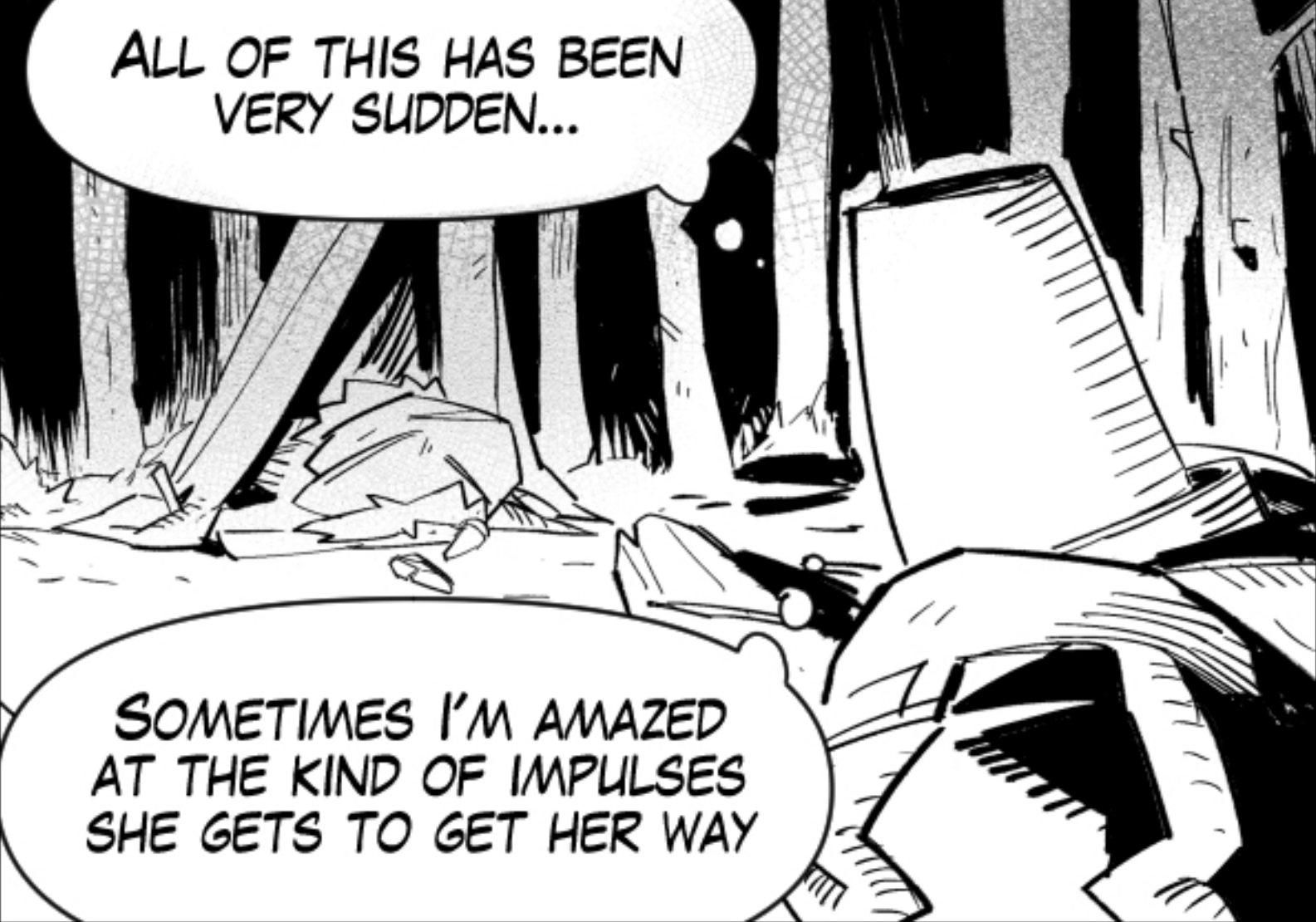


HEH... SHE'S ALWAYS
SO WORRIED ABOUT
MY WELLBEING

SHE HAS NEVER
REALLY SEEN ME
AS A MERE
SERVANT... HUH



ALL OF THIS HAS BEEN
VERY SUDDEN...

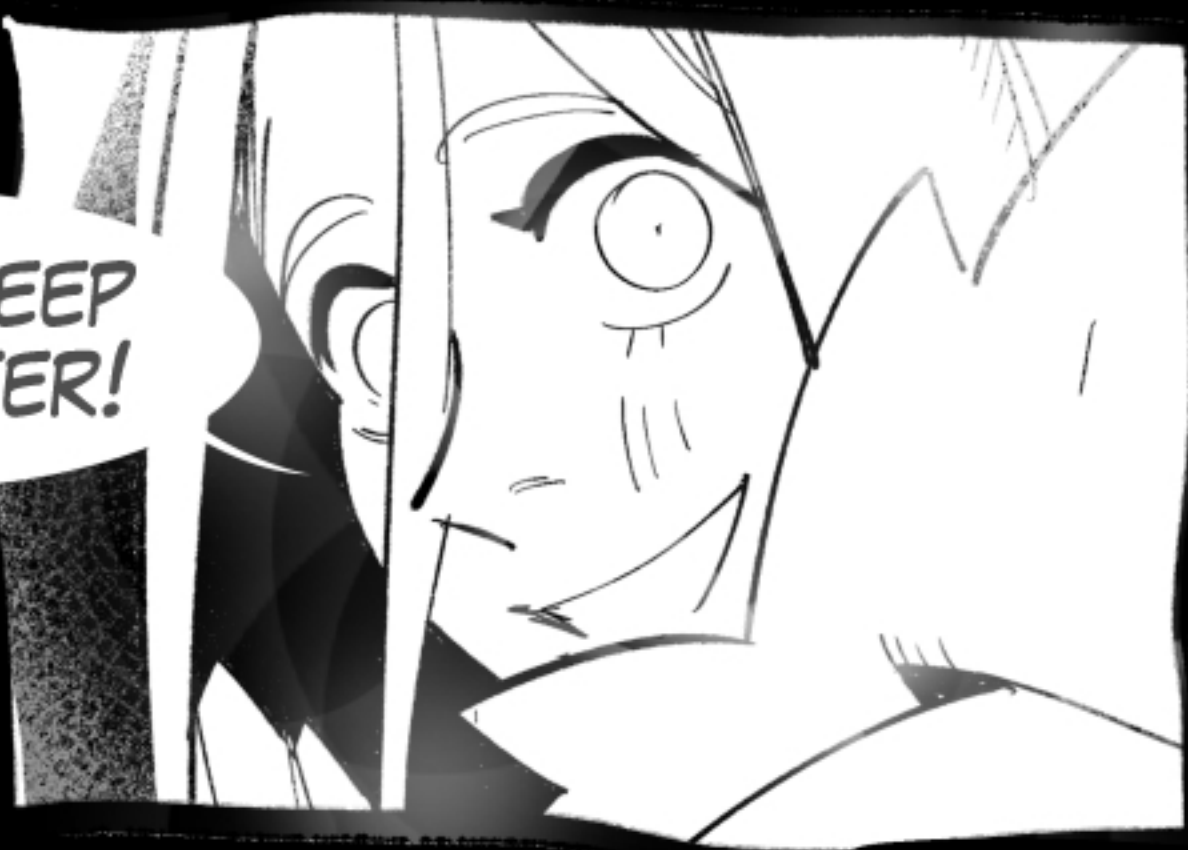


SOMETIMES I'M AMAZED
AT THE KIND OF IMPULSES
SHE GETS TO GET HER WAY

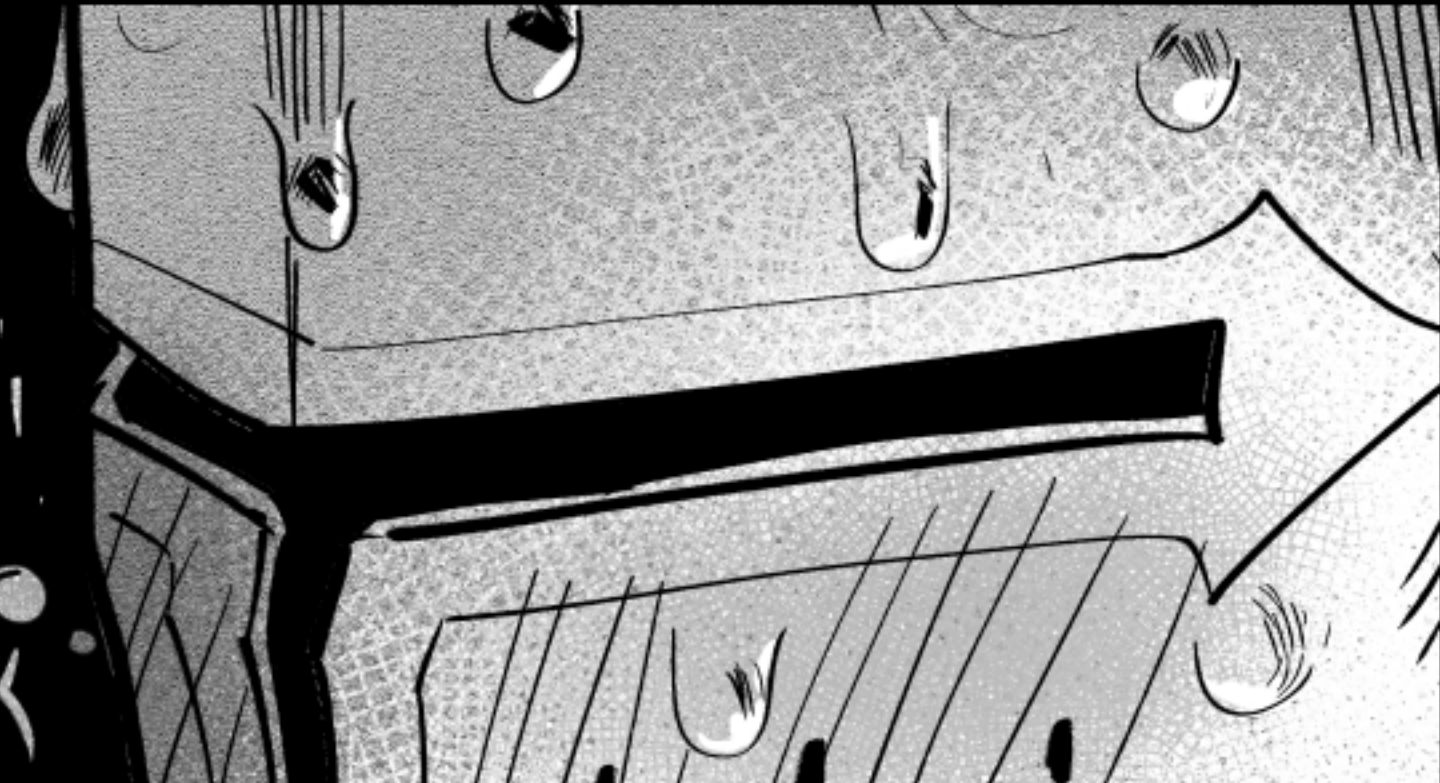
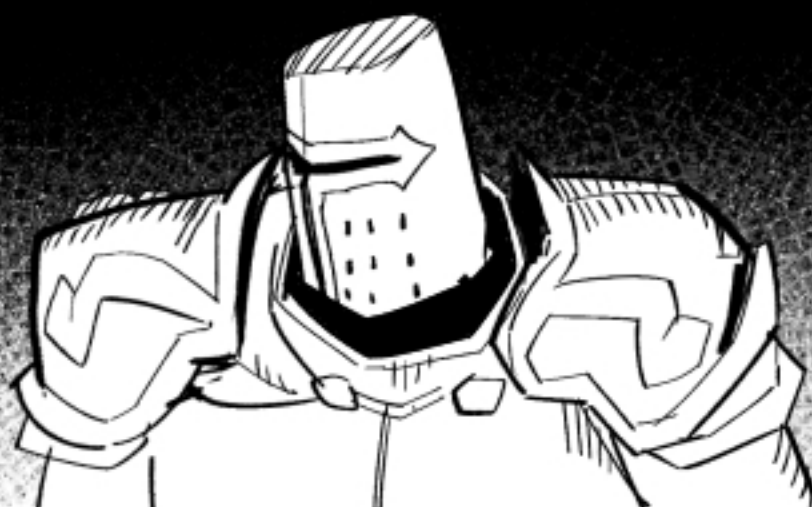


I GUESS I KEEP
UNDERESTIMATING
HER.

SHE'S STRONGER
THAN SHE LOOKS



COME SLEEP
HERE LATER!



THIS IS ACTUALLY
THE FIRST TIME
WE ARE TRULY
ALONE TOGETHER

THIS IS ACTUALLY
THE FIRST TIME
WE ARE TRULY
ALONE TOGETHER

HALT,
HERETIC!

PO-NE

LOOK AT
ME IN
THE EYE!

*ANGELIC
CHORUS*

HUMAN
ATTACHMENTS
ARE TEMPORARY
BUT WAR. WAR
IS ETERNAL

KEEP YOUR
GUARD UP,
SOLDIER!

I'M SORRY--
SORRY--

BO-NK

SO... SHE'S
STRONG.

AND I FEEL SO WEAK,
TRYING TO KEEP A COUPLE
OF EMOTIONS AT BAY

KA-TOON!

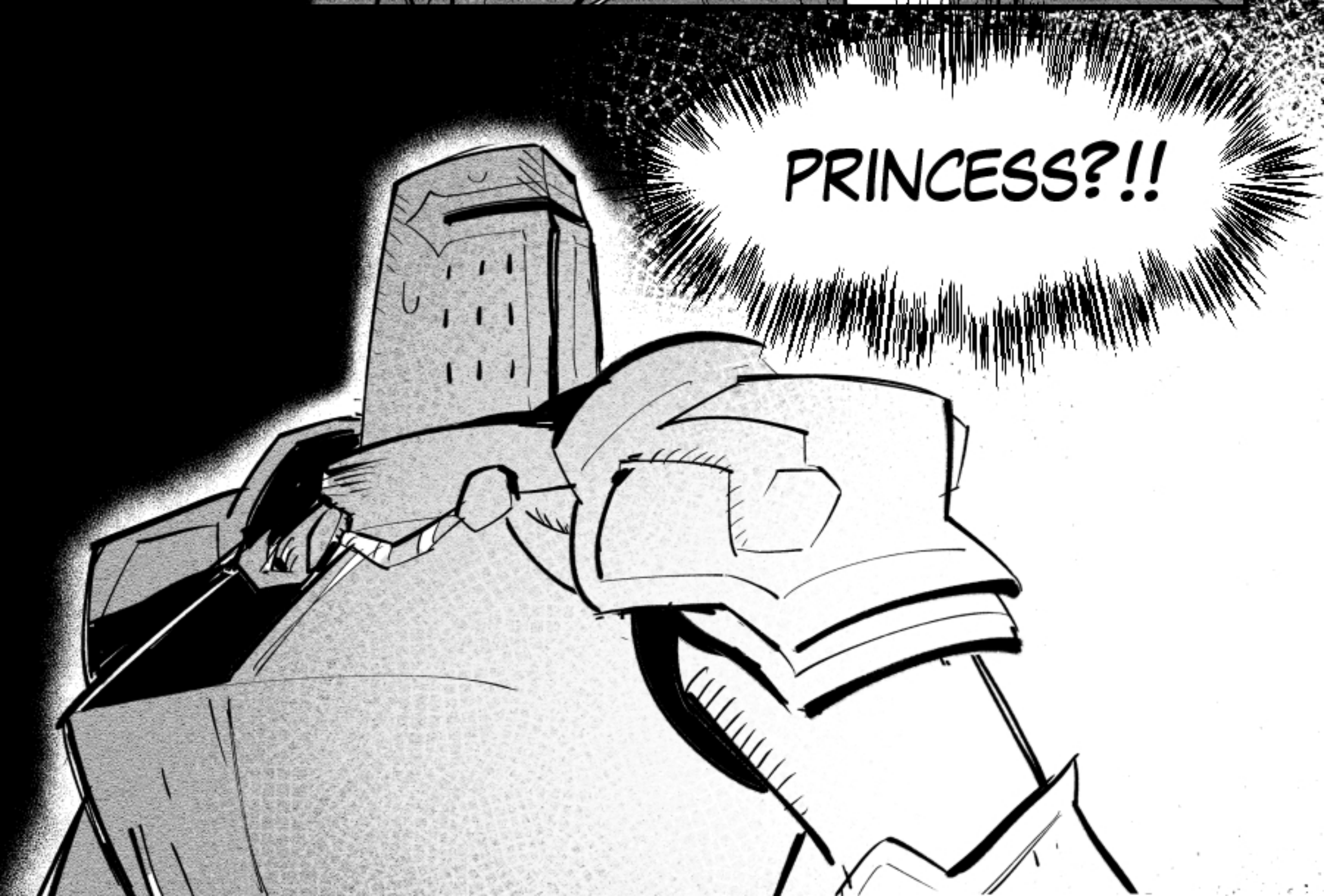
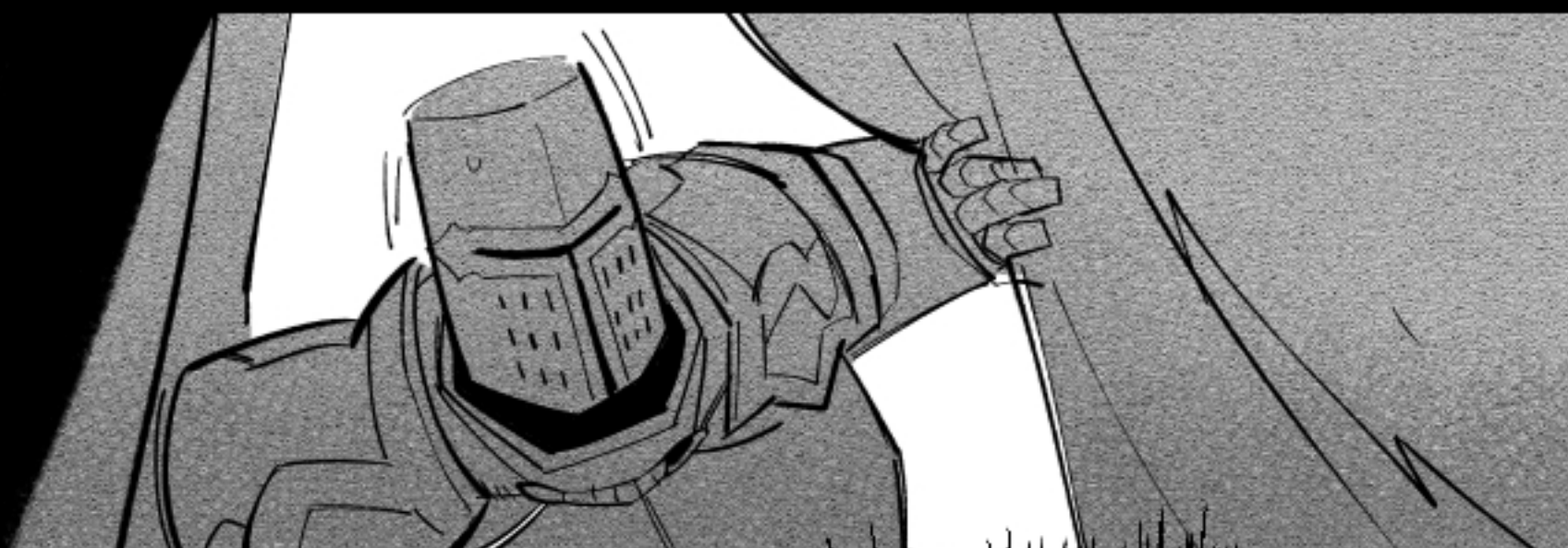
EEK!

SHIT.

THAT FELT
LIKE IT
STRUCK
CLOSE

I WONDER IF IT
WOKE UP THE
PRINCESS

HUH?



KA-SHAN

HEHE...
RICARD...
WHERE ARE YOU
TAKING ME?...

I DON'T WANT
TO GET BACK...
TO THE CASTLE
...SILLY

DID YOUR...
BRAIN GOT
METALIZED...
OR SOMETHING?
HAHA...

EH-

HMM?

KZZZ

BZZ

SHAK

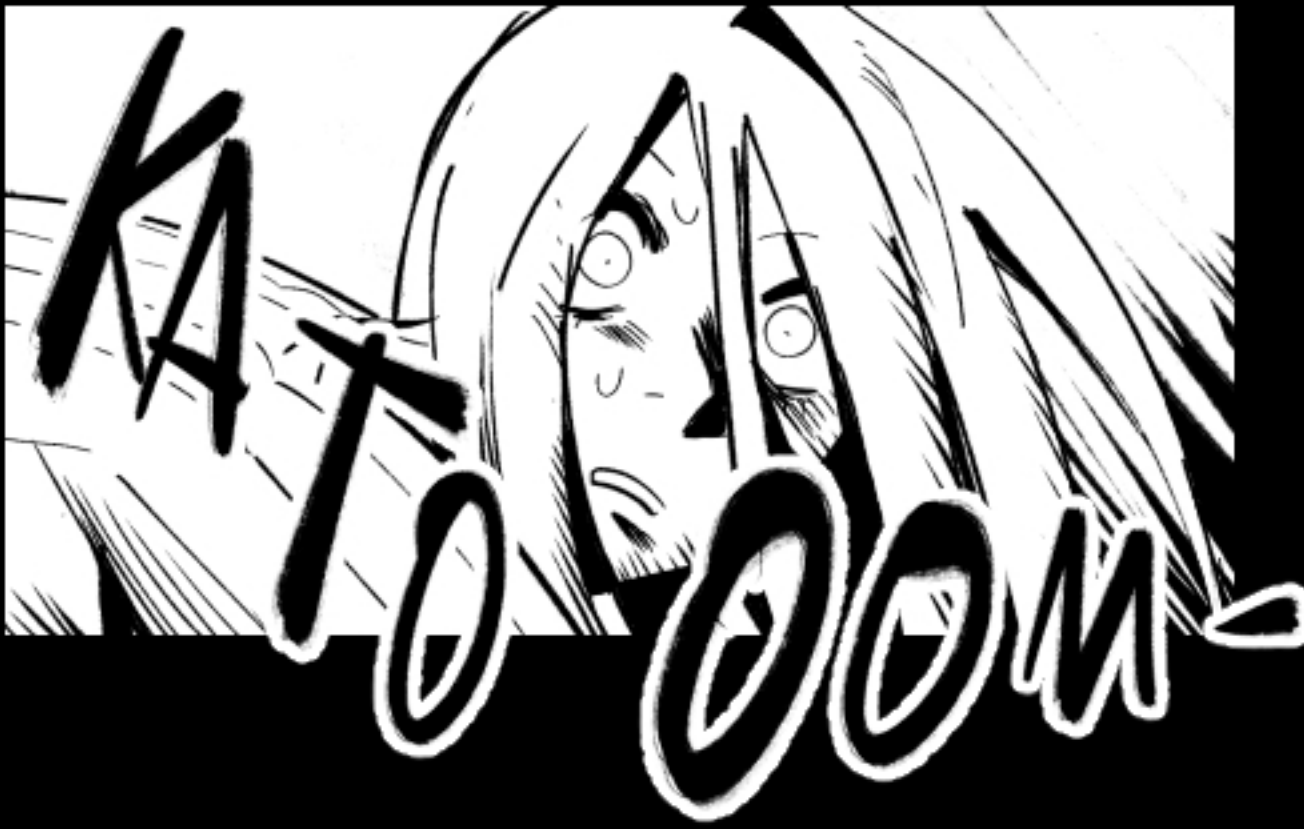
SHAK



RICARD...?



WHAT ARE...
YOU?...



GYAAAAA!!!!
LET ME--

GOOO!!!



P O F -



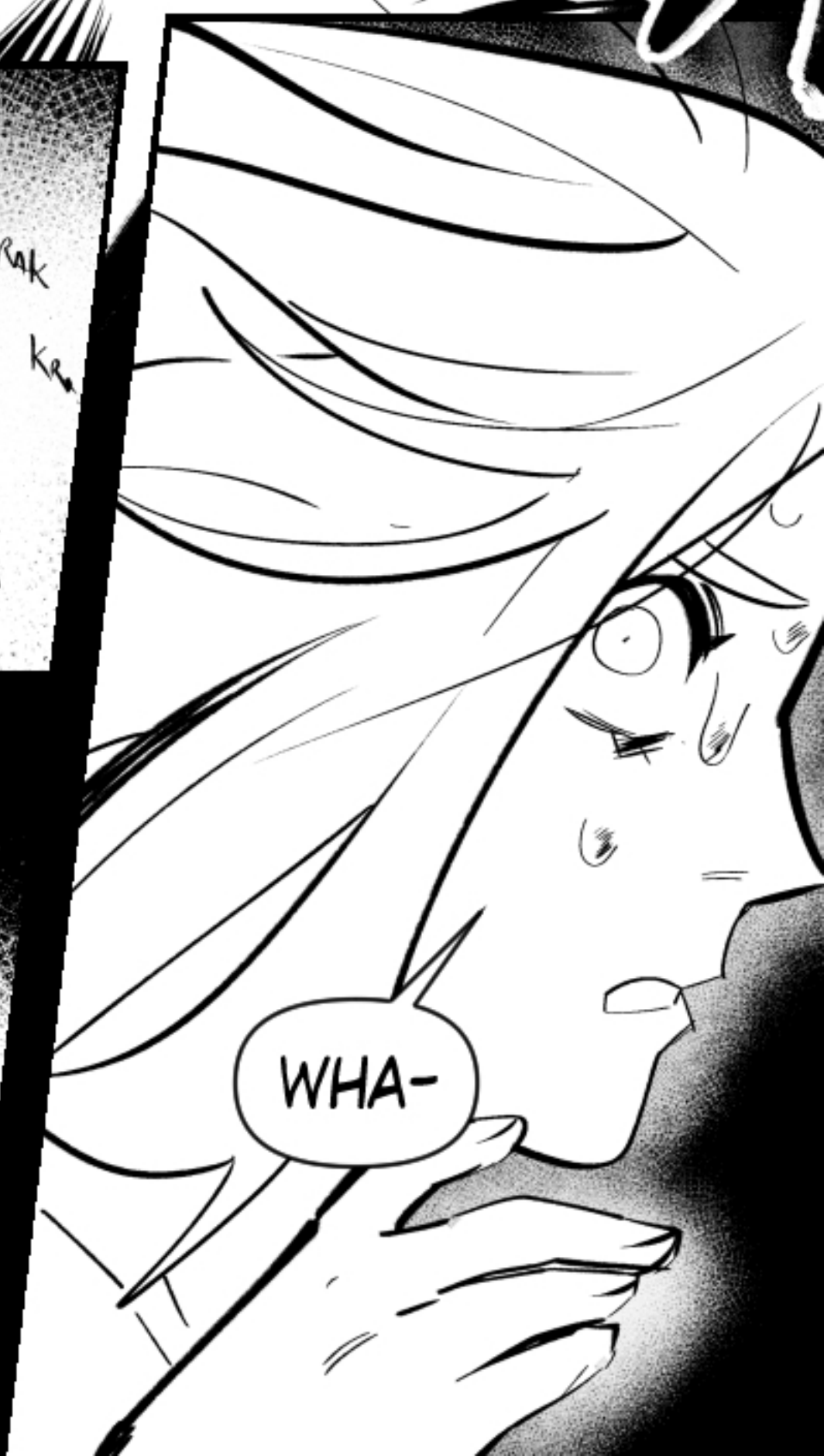
KA-TWO!

Hi-

Hi-

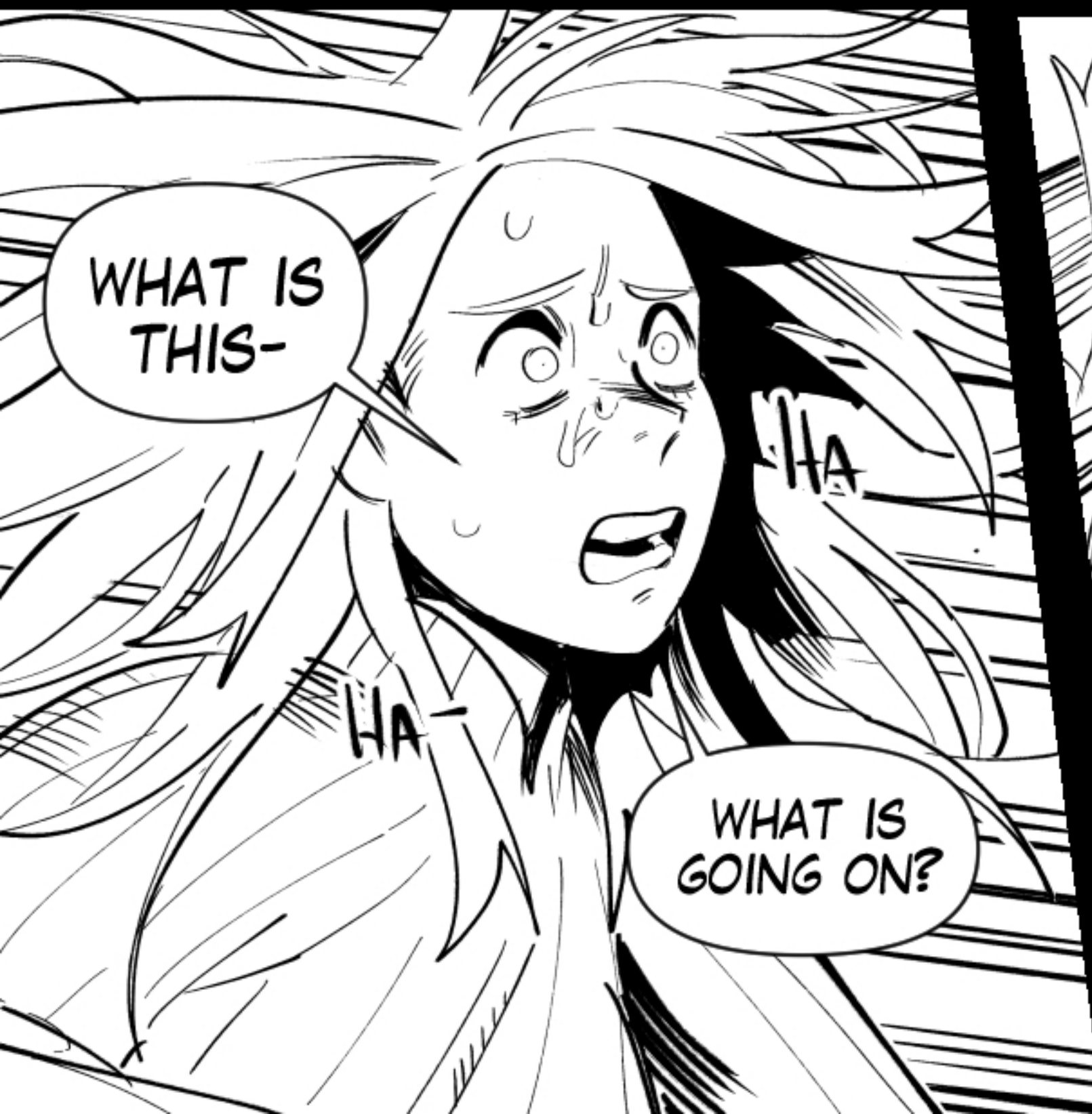
RICAAARD!!!
HELP MEE!!

GYAA!!





HIII!!



WHAT IS THIS-

WHAT IS GOING ON?



MFFFF!

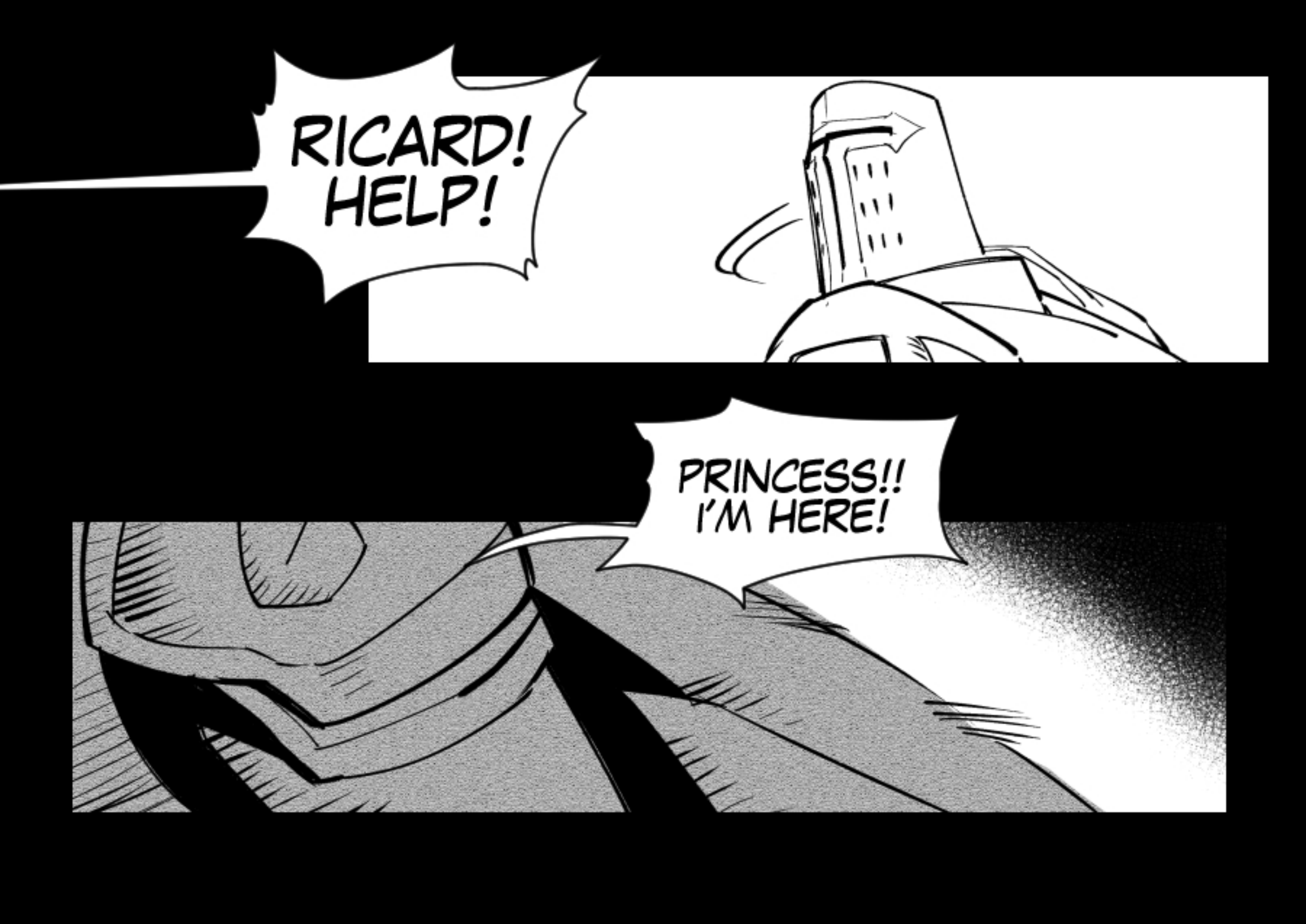


PRINCESS!!
PRINCESS!!

WHERE
ARE YOU?!



RICARD!
HELP!



PRINCESS!!
I'M HERE!



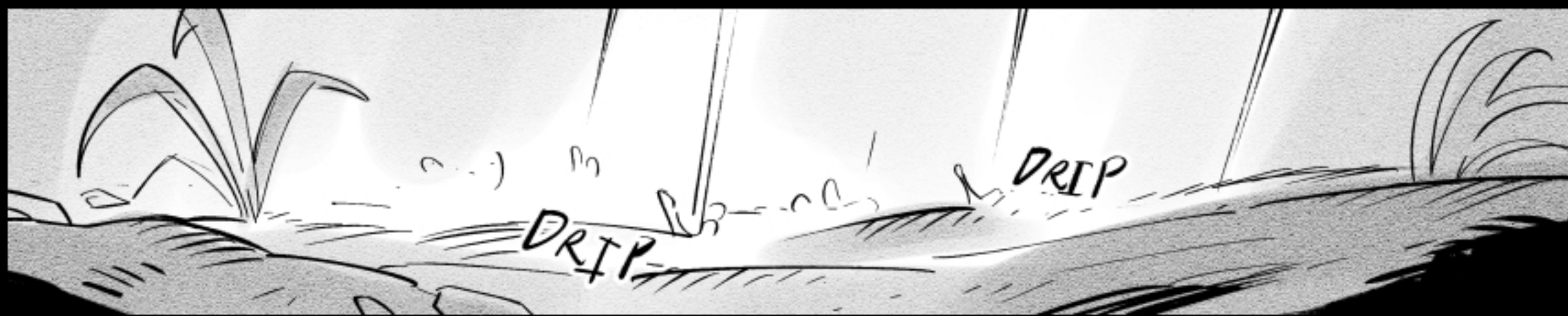


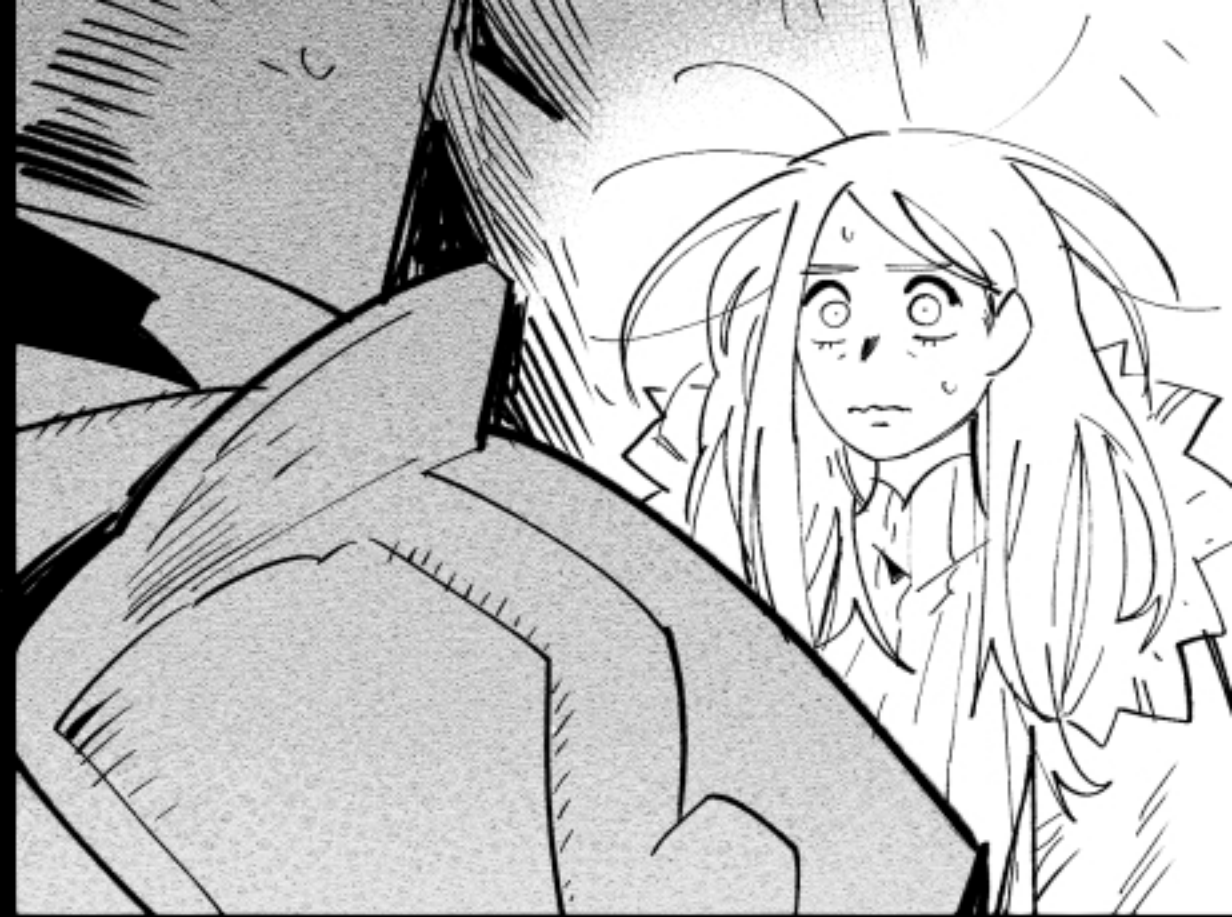
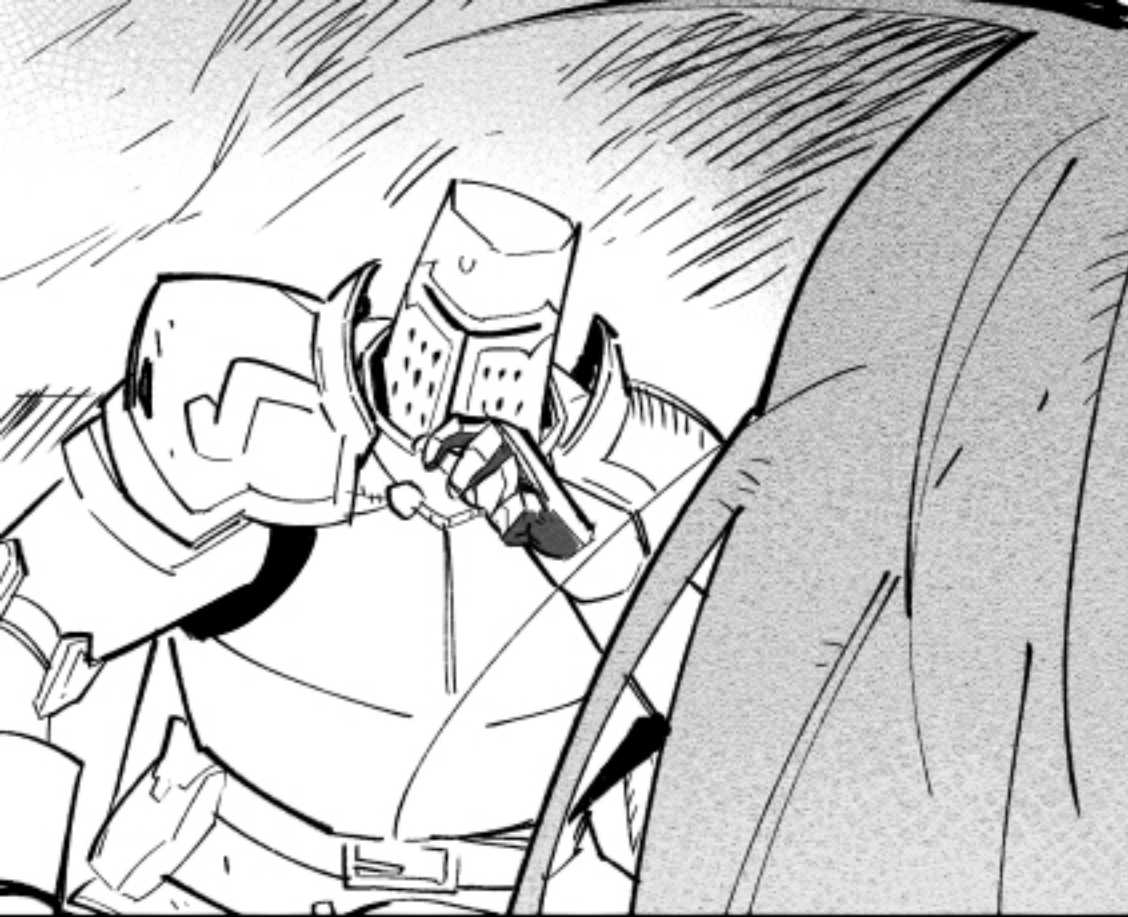




HOLD ON
TIGHT!







IT'S SO WEIRD
HE DIDN'T
ATTACK YOU...

IT LOOKED
LIKE HE WAS
ONLY KIDNAPPING
YOU-

I THOUGHT HE WOULD
TAKE ME, AND I
WOULD NEVER
SEE YOU AGAIN!!

WOW
OH!!

PAT
PAT

IF HE DIDN'T
ATTACK YOU...
COULD THAT MEAN
HE STILL HAD
THE CAPACITY OF
REASONING?

HONESTLY,
HE LOOKED MORE LIKE A
PUPPET. HE MOVED CLUM-
SILY- HE HAD SPARKS
OF LIGHTNING IN HIM...

HE HAD A REALLY BAD
INJURY AND SMELLED
OF ROT... MAYBE HE WAS
INDEED A PUPPET?

I DON'T KNOW...
US ASH MEN HAVE
A GREAT TOLERANCE
TO INJURIES AND
BLOOD LOSS.

ANYHOW. I'M GLAD
YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

OH AND...
YOU SAID
YOU HEARD
SOMEBODY?

SOMETHING ABOUT NOT
BEING AFRAID... AND...
EMBRACING IT?...

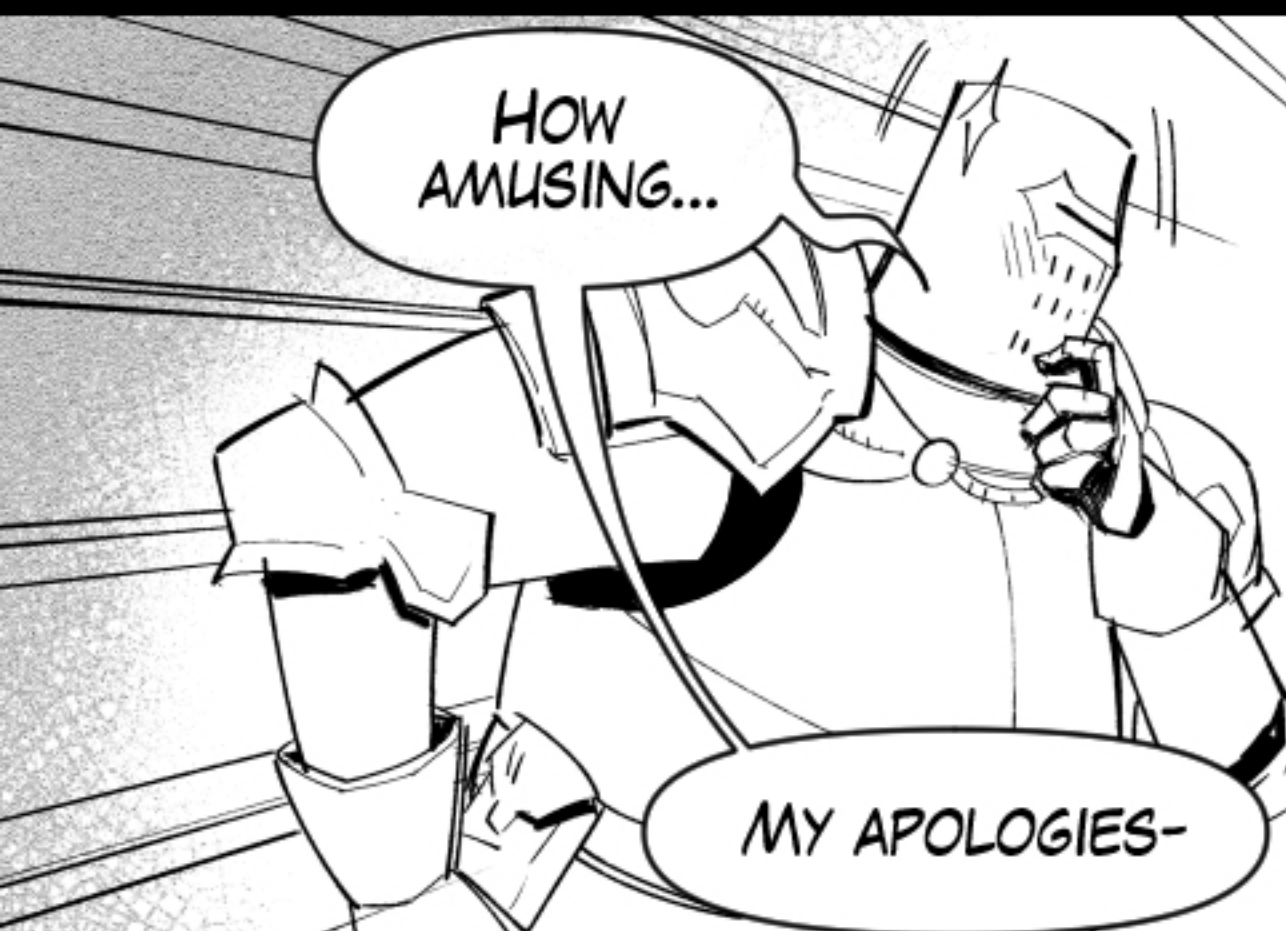
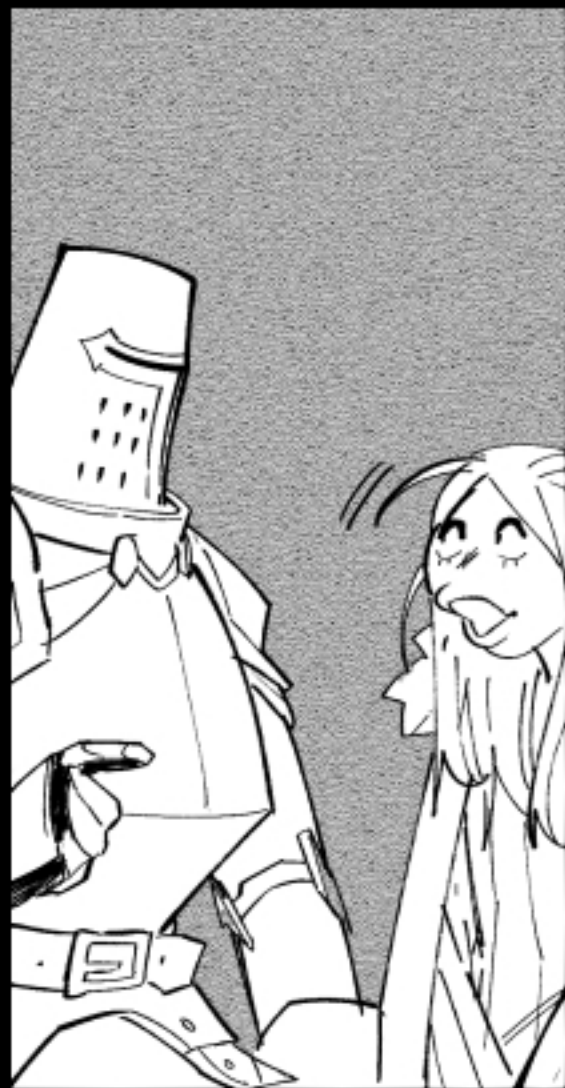
...

I REALLY DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THAT COULD
HAVE MEANT

HMM...

WHAT IF THEY
WERE ALIENS??!!

ALIENS?,
WHAT IF THEY
WERE THE GODS
THEMSELVES!





NOT REALLY-



ARE YOU COLD?

THAT'S GOOD.
THIS WINTER
LOOKS LIKE IT
WILL LAST
A WHILE

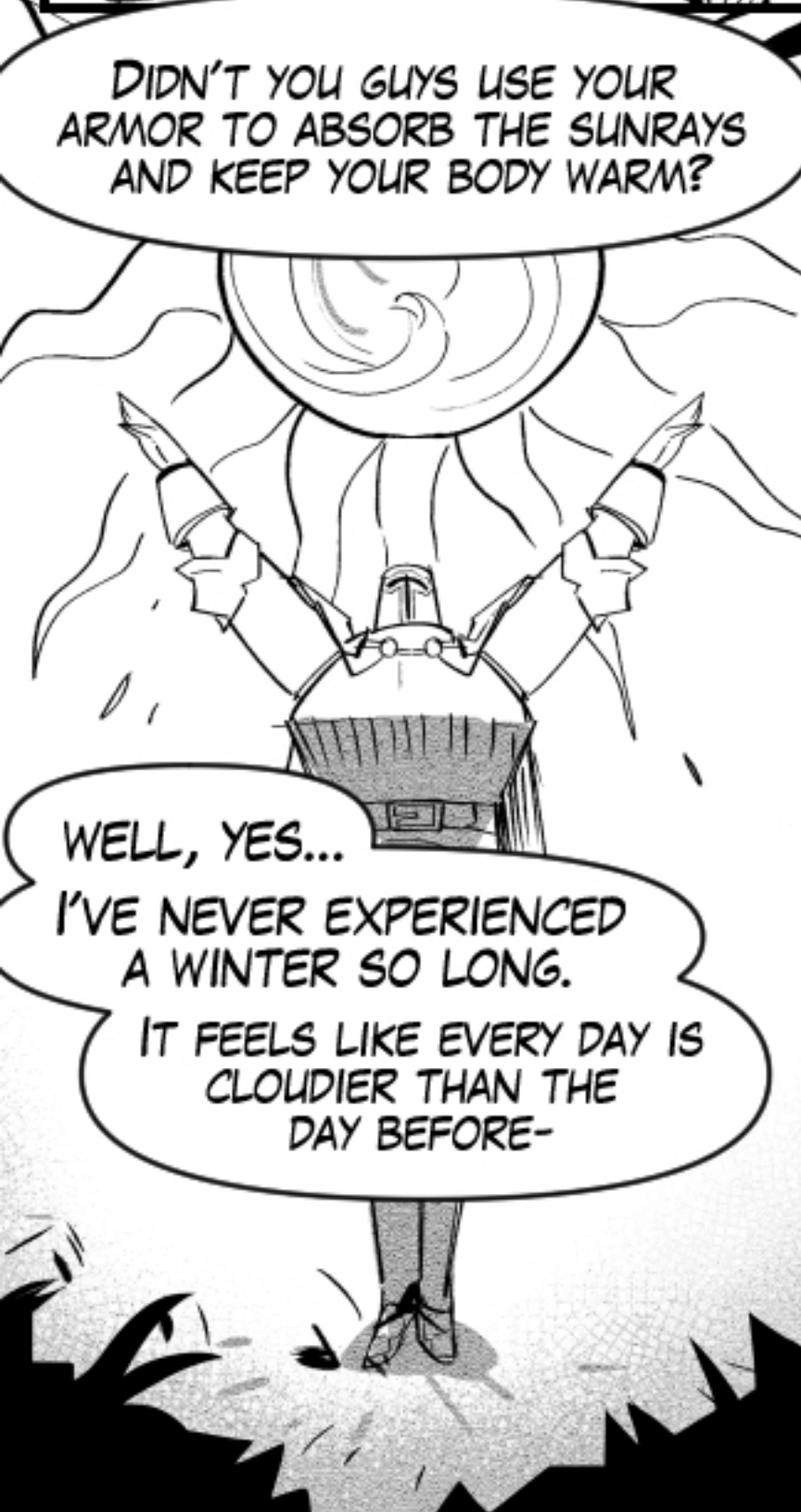


EH?



IS THAT WHY
THE ASH MEN
WENT MAD?

THE COLD.
FROM WHAT I'VE
READ ABOUT YOU,
YOU NEED THE
SUN'S HEAT



DIDN'T YOU GUYS USE YOUR
ARMOR TO ABSORB THE SUNRAYS
AND KEEP YOUR BODY WARM?



I COULDN'T HAVE THOSE
RELAXING SUNBATHS I
USED TO GET. REMEMBER?
HAHA...

WELL, YES...

I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED
A WINTER SO LONG.

IT FEELS LIKE EVERY DAY IS
CLOUDIER THAN THE
DAY BEFORE-

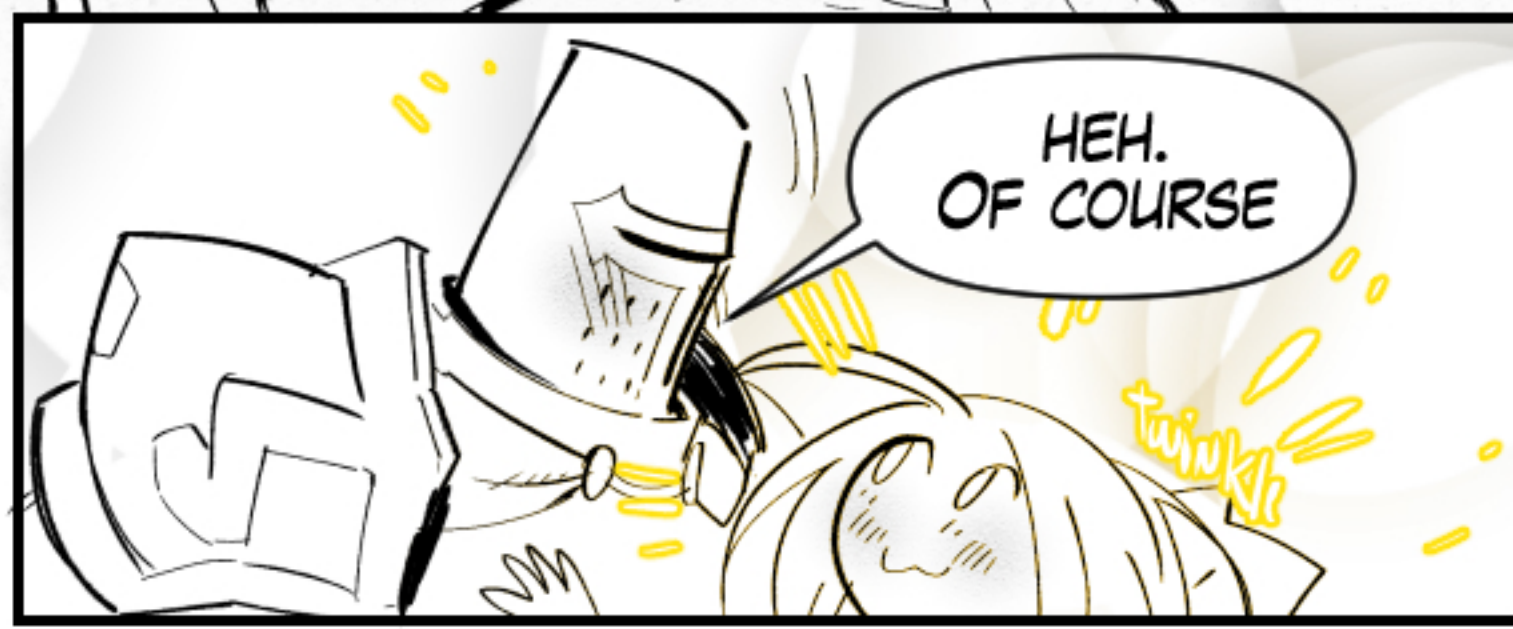
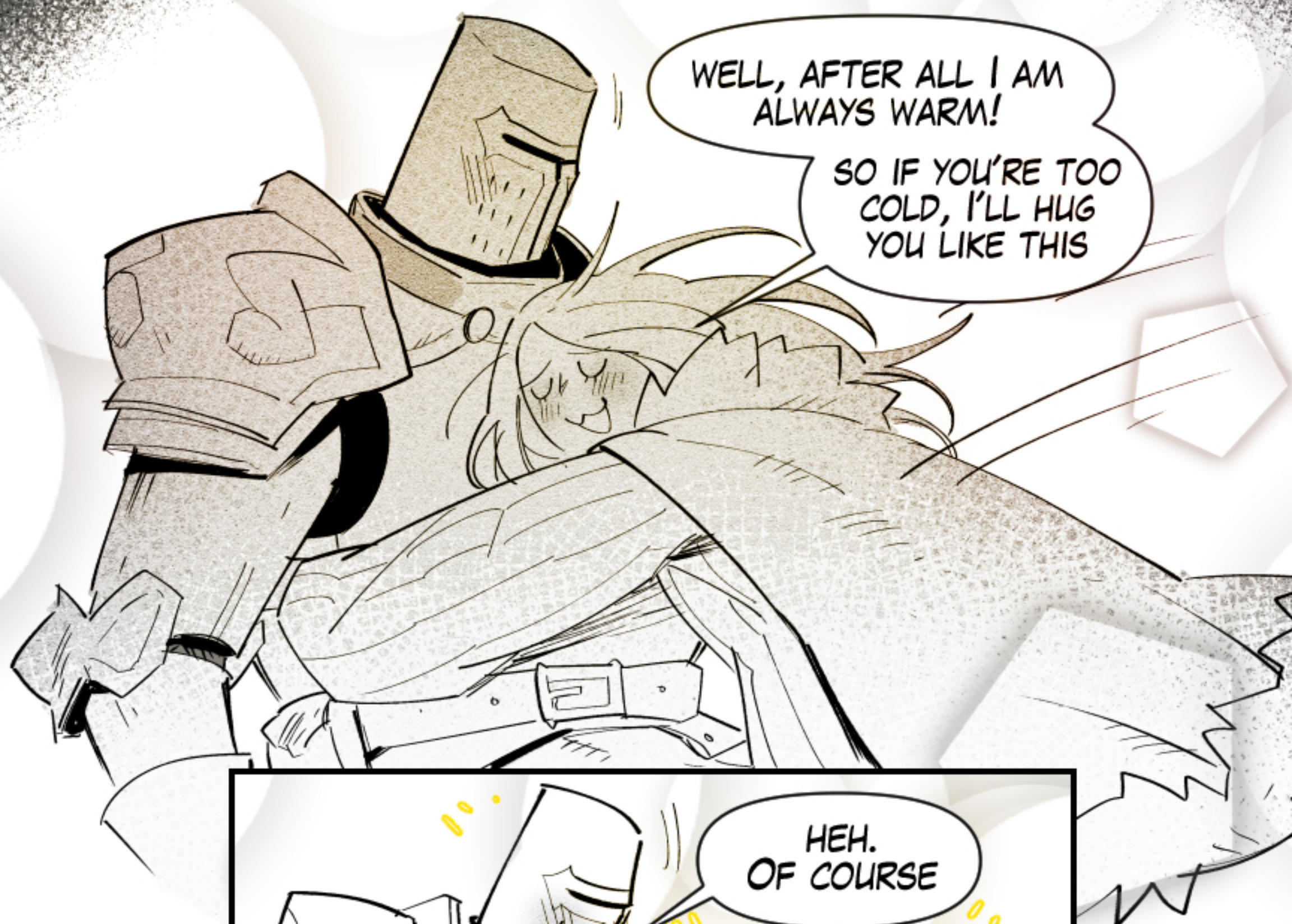
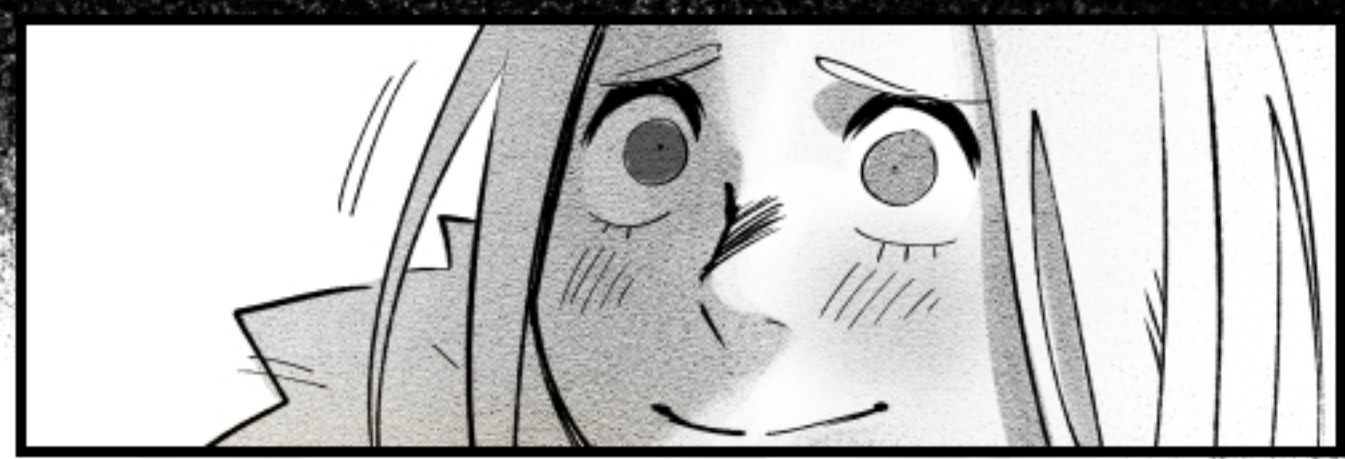
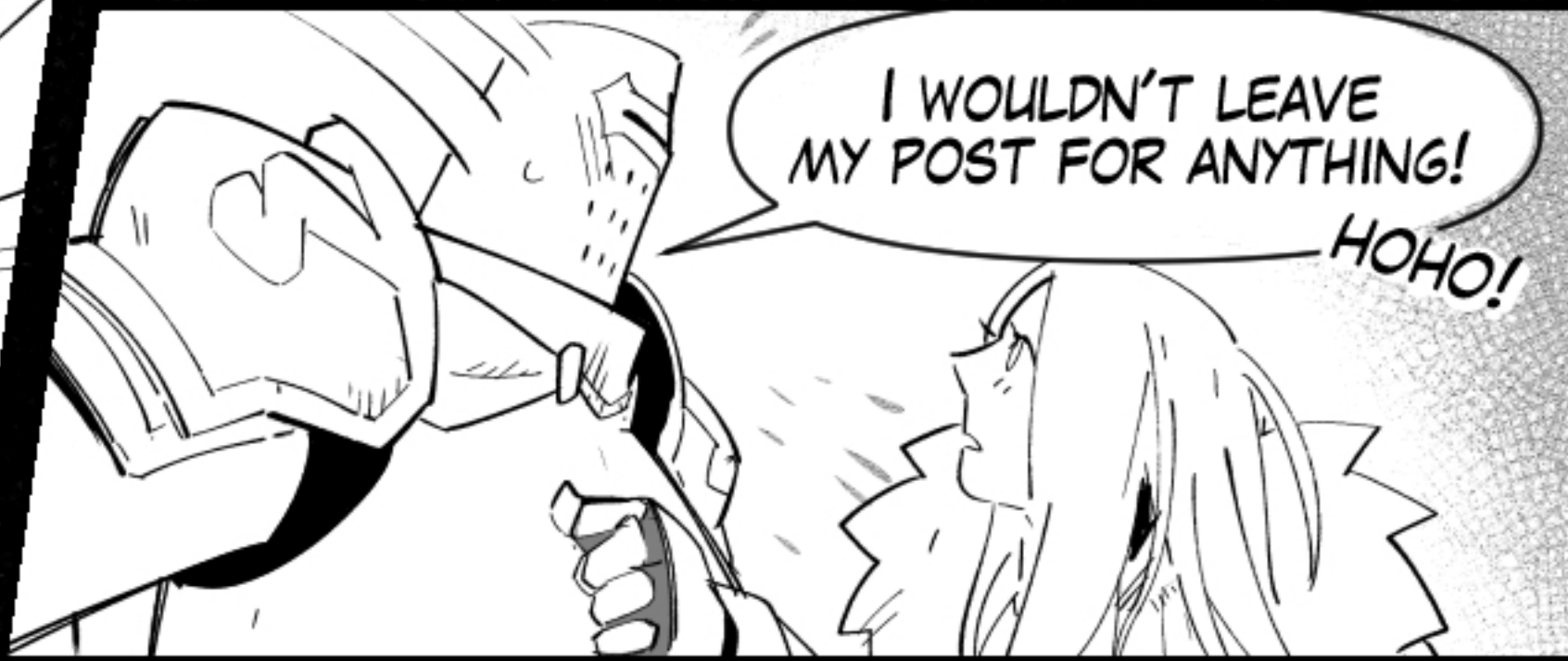


-GULP-



IF THE SUN
DOESN'T
COME OUT
SOON...

WILL YOU
TURN INTO
ONE OF
THESE?





AFTER ALL THAT'S
HAPPENED... MAYBE IT'S
NOT THE BEST IDEA WE
STAY ALONE.

YOU WERE RIGHT...
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO...



SIGH

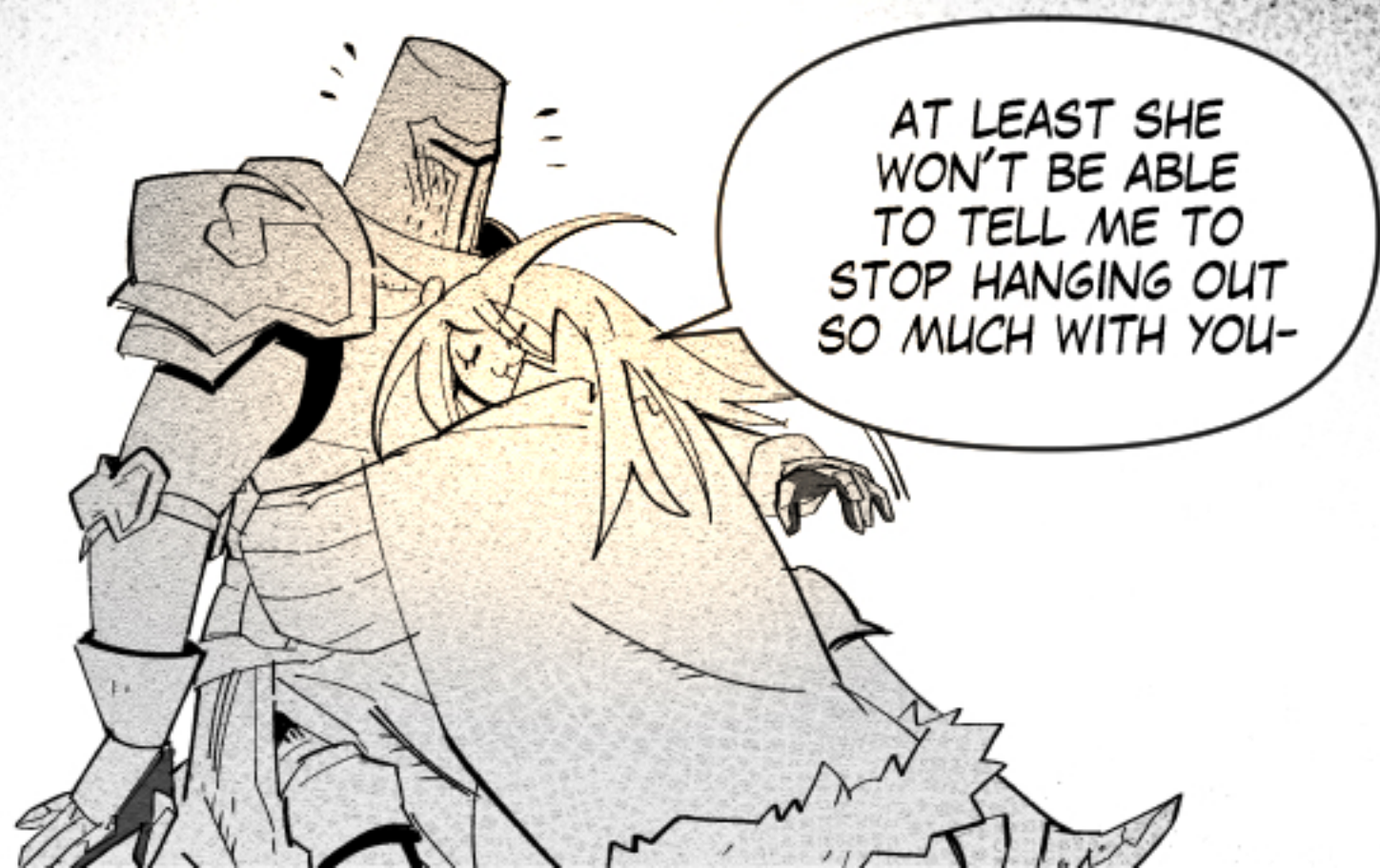
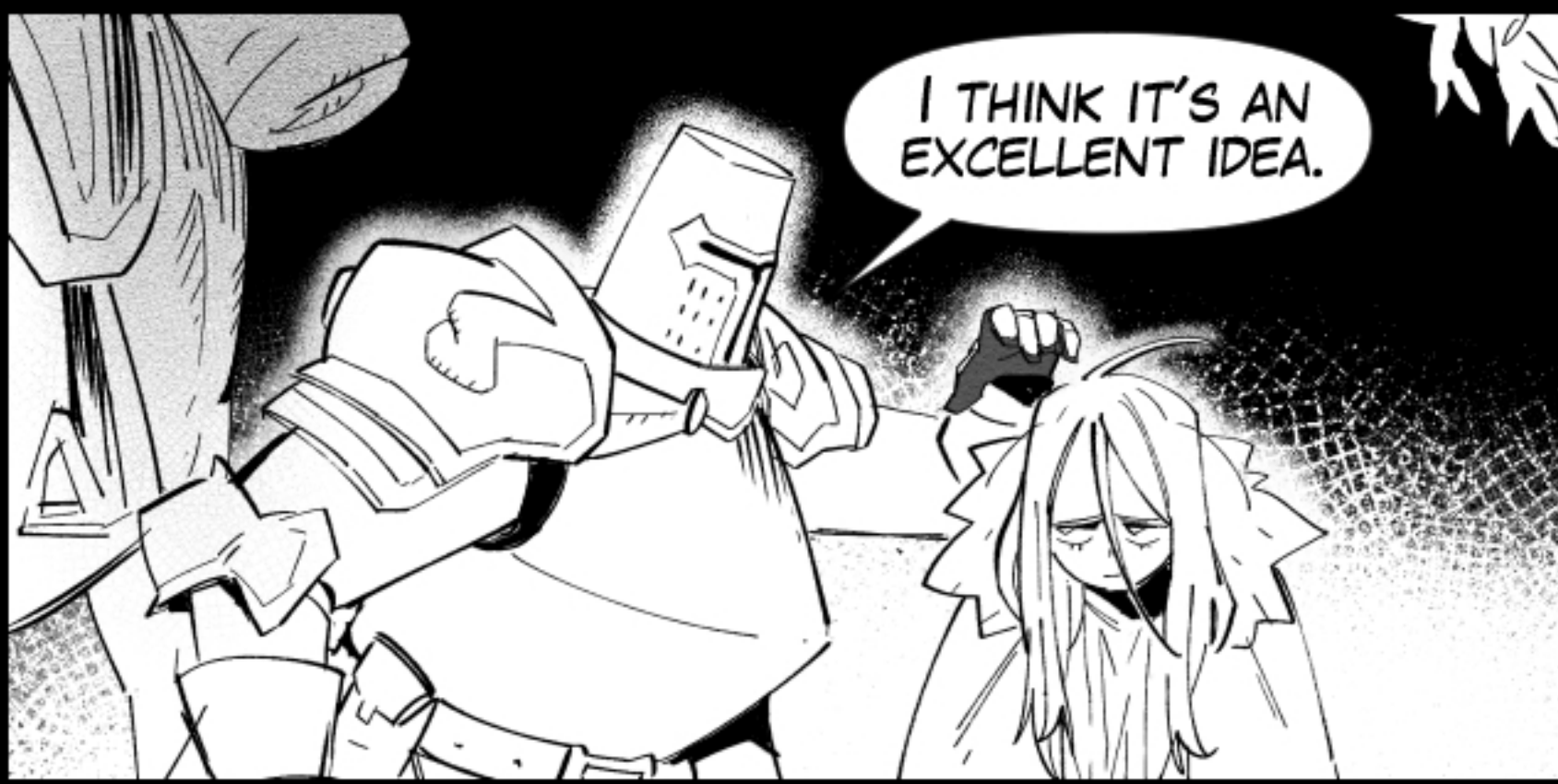
GO LOOK
FOR MY
MOTHER.



SHE MIGHT KNOW WHERE
TO GO TO LOOK FOR SHELTER.

SHE ALSO MUST HAVE
FERMIN AND ERLANTZ
BY HER SIDE... AND
THE KING.

I THINK IT'S OUR
BEST OPTION
NOW.



THE SECRET
MESSAGES
ARE CALLING TO
ME ENDLESSLY,
THEY CALL TO ME
ACROSS THE AIR...~

YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO SLEEP, AND
THEN SLEPT THROUGH
A WHOLE KIDNAPPING!

SHE ISN'T
LISTENING TO ME....

WHAT ARE YOU
SINGING?

